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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses authority control in the national bibliography of South Africa. The changes brought about by the shift from the Information Age to the Knowledge Age are summarized, and an overview of the National Library of South Africa is provided, including its history from 1818 to the present, as well as objectives and functions. Authority control in South Africa is analyzed with reference to content and context at the local, national, and international levels. The discussion of the local level covers: (1) an overview of obtaining information from authors and specific authority control activities performed by librarians; (2) principles, including the library catalog and authority control, uniqueness and standardization, and quality searching; (3) standards and guidelines; and (4) other verifying sources. At the national level, South African libraries and SABINET Online are described. At the international level, the paper covers IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) and its UBCIM (Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC) program. The concept of access control as an alternative to authority control is also discussed. (Contains 31 references.) (MES)

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## Perspective on names in the *South African National Bibliography*: Past, present and future

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### 1 Introduction

Cyberspace – defined as a digital world, constructed by computer networks – is fast becoming part of our reality. We live in a global environment, with fluid frontiers, where data warehouses, information and misinformation and knowledge in digital form abound. The shift from the Information Age to the Knowledge Age is taking place almost imperceptibly.

Our society – how we work, live and play – has changed and we need information to redefine society for the Knowledge Age. As librarians, we know better than most that vast amounts of information are of little or no value to our users, unless we can find exactly what they need, quickly, and easily and in a usable format, capable of being organised and stored for later use.

People who survive and thrive in the Knowledge Age will be knowledgeable. They will develop their abilities as knowledgeable learners. They will have an ability with knowledge. They will be skilled in the combination of knowledge to create new ideas, to innovate, to invent. According to Derek Cabrera, in his book *Remedial genius*, such people have mastered the art of thinking in patterns, relationships, systems, distinctions and perspectives. The National Library of South Africa (National Library) is another knowledgeable citizen of cyberspace.

### 2 National Library in perspective

#### 2.1 History

Until 1 November 1999, for historical reasons, South Africa had two national libraries, the South

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African Library, founded in 1818, in Cape Town, and the State Library, founded in 1887, in Pretoria. In terms of South African legal deposit legislation, each of the national libraries was a legal deposit library, entitled to receive from the publishers a gratis copy of every book, serial, newspaper, government publication, or other printed item published in South Africa. In South Africa, legal deposit in some form or another, dates back to 1842. As a result, extensive collections of material of great scholarly value have been built up in the former national libraries.

During the 1990s the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology began a review of all legislation under its jurisdiction, including the National Libraries Act, No 56 of 1985. The Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in 1996 appointed a Working Group on the national libraries of South Africa to advise him on the future of the two national libraries. The most important recommendation of the Working Group was that the two national libraries be amalgamated to form a dual-site (Cape Town and Pretoria) national library, to be known as the National Library of South Africa.

The new institution, formed on 1 November 1999, makes possible a renaissance of the national library in South Africa. Within the framework of its mission, it should be faithful to its strategic directions – i.e. holding a mirror to the nation, building a bridge to the information society, levelling the playing field for information access, and creating a learning organisation - to play a meaningful role in its rapidly changing environment.

### 2.2 Objects and functions

The National Library is best characterised by its objectives, as described in *The National Library Act, Act 92 of 1998*. The mission of the National Library is to contribute to socio-economic, cultural, educational, scientific, and innovative development by collecting, recording, preserving, and making available the national documentary heritage and promoting an awareness and appreciation thereof, by fostering information literacy, and by facilitating access to the world's information resources.

Important functions of the National Library with an impact on authority control are to build up a complete collection of published documents emanating from or relating to South Africa and to record these documents. It should render a national bibliographic service and in such way promote optimal access to South African published documents, nationally and internationally. It should also act as the national bibliographic agency (NBA) of the country. In order to achieve its objects and promote the development of library and information services in South Africa, the National Library must provide appropriate information products and services and provide leadership, guidance, and advice to South African libraries and information services. These functions are in accordance with the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (ICNBS) and support national bibliographic control.

The primary knowledge resource of the National Library is built up from documents received in terms of *The Legal Deposit Act, no. 54 of 1997*. The collection reflects the cultural heritage and identity of the South African nation in its rich diversity. The National Library not only sees to it that these publications are preserved for posterity. Access to the information they contain is another prime concern. Using the information supplied by the publishers together with the publications lodged on legal deposit, the National Library compiles the *South African National Bibliography*, or *SANB* as it is popularly known. The *SANB* has evolved from printed to electronic format and is an important South African information source.

Together with collecting and recording, a third group of activities to foster bibliographic control concerns the NBA activities. Authority control in South Africa complies with the universal bibliographic control (UBC) principle that each NBA should establish the authoritative form of name for its country's authors, both personal and corporate. It is also recommended by the ICNBS in its stipulation that each NBA should maintain an authority control system for national names, personal and corporate, and uniform titles, in accordance with international guidelines. Such an authority

control system is of relevance in the compilation of a national bibliography, because names, titles, and subjects are also identified as the organising elements in the data requirements for the basic national bibliographic record.

Through these infra structural activities, the National Library plays a dynamic role in building an informed South African nation.

## 3 Authority control in South Africa

As a consequence of the bibliographic process, information sources in the National Library's collection of heritage documents are described and listed systematically in the *SANB*. This process involves the description of the physical item and choice of access points, using authorised forms for these access points. Authority control ensures that a standardised, unique name for a specific author is established, so that this standardised name is consistently used to accurately and precisely retrieve all works by an author in a particular catalogue. Since globalization became part of the National Library's reality during the 1990s, "catalogue" no longer refers only to the local, or in-house catalogue. It now has an international character, and a South African person is no longer consistently identified by a unique, standardised name. The National Library is a newcomer to the international authority control scene and is in a transition period from creator of a consistent local authority file to contributor of South African name authority records to an international authority file. The National Library aims for consistent use of South African personal names in both the local and international authority files, to be reflected as such in the *SANB*.

The National Library has achieved full authority control for personal names on local level. It still has a way to go before authority control is achieved on national and international level, to fulfill the goal of UBC, namely a "worldwide system for the control and exchange of bibliographic information, in order to make universally and promptly available, in a form which is internationally acceptable, bibliographic information on publications issued in all countries."

The South African perspective on personal name authority control is analysed in this paper with reference to content and context at local, national and international level.

### 3.1 Local level – National Library

#### 3.1.1 Overview

In the early years, the former State Library maintained name authorities on the Dobis/Libis system. This list of headings contained, in addition to the authorised forms of headings, only the non-authorised and related forms and limited notes – occasionally referring to sources. Notably lacking were notes on the sources consulted to create the record and the nationality of the authors. During the early 1990s, this situation changed, as notes on the sources consulted and the nationality of the authors were added.

Gradually the national name authority list became the National Name Authority File (NNAF). An integrated system of authority and bibliographic files was kept. The NNAF was a closed file, where authorised headings for personal and corporate names, uniform, and series titles, and subjects were kept in one authority file. Depending on the search strategy, the relevant data was extracted. (NB: in this paper, the authority data for personal names are used to illustrate authority control matters, and is not an indication that only a name authority file is kept).

The NNAF file is a standardised list of names and biographical details of South African authors. Information supplied by authors is utilised by authority control staff to uniquely identify a name on the NNAF. Information is obtained from authors by means of a form that they complete, sign, and

send back to the National Library, and that includes the following:

- surname
- full forenames
- maiden name, if applicable
- pseudonym, if any
- real name, if pseudonym is used, and an indication of the confidentiality thereof
- date of birth
- signature
- date the form was completed
- list of works published, and their publication dates.

All new authors receive such a form. The form has been used since 1971.

Qualified librarians perform specific authority control activities, viz.:

- establish names according to AACR2R (chapters 22-24)
- consult/research the author's works and other sources, using the author's from, *Library of Congress Name Authority File (LCNAF)*, *British Library Name Authority List (BLNAL)*, *SACat* (the South African cooperative database), *Library of Congress Rule Interpretations (LCRI)*, and consultation with experts
- make references according to AACR2R (chapter 26) and add notes
- mail forms to authors, where necessary
- create and update names according to information supplied by authors
- handle enquiries regarding South African authors.

Thus, it is clear that authority control staff are knowledgeable on South African authors, because they can see what others cannot, as they have access to the legal deposit copies of an author's repertoire. They can do what others cannot, because the National Library as the NBA in the country, has the authority to establish the standardised forms of names for South African authors, to the benefit of any other institution. They are able to be what others are not, because they are empowered by legislation to perform South African authority control, resulting in capacity building. They are in a state of "re" (reflection and reporting), or constant learning, which is dynamic and powerful.

### 3.1.2 Principles

Three sets of principles are basic to the authority work done at the National Library, namely: the library catalogue as bibliographic control tool, the availability of a single name for a given author to foster consistent usage, and precise retrieval of information searched for by a user.

#### (a) The library catalogue and authority control

The National Library acknowledges that the concept of "authority control" is inseparable from that of "catalogue" and predates the existence of name authority files. The library catalogue is a well-known bibliographic control tool, and its creation involves the description of the physical item and choice of access points. The establishment of the authority forms of these standardised access points supports the finding, collation and linking functions of a catalogue. Without standardised name headings which are consistently used, it will be difficult to find a work by a specific author, as well as to know what the extent is of a specific author's works – authority control thus provides for the connection of the various elements in a catalogue. Through authority control, standardised name headings are created for utilisation within a (library) catalogue.

**(b) Uniqueness, standardisation and linkage**

Authority work involves research and intellectual effort to determine the authoritative form of a South African heading. In addition, references and relationships are traced, notes are included, and reference sources are cited. Authority work results in an authority record, which is a record of the decisions made during the course of the work. For South African authority records, the elements in the authority file correspond to those listed in *Guidelines for Authority Records and References*: authorised heading, including dates and other additions to qualify; variant forms (see references); related forms (see also references); public notes; private notes (e.g. some authors writing under pseudonyms wish to keep their real names confidential); and sources cited. The present cataloguing system used by the National Library does not provide for an authority record number, nor the International Standard Authority Data Number (ISADN), but the National Library is in principle in favour of the ISADN.

Name authority records are included in the South African NNAF. The NNAF is a set of records that identifies the established, authoritative forms of headings in South African bibliographic records. It is an instrument in precise information retrieval. Although South African name authority control cannot yet be promoted through the availability of authority files to the national and international library community, standardised South African name headings are available in *SANB* bibliographic records. When libraries use these standardised forms, the consistent use of one authority form for a heading is ensured, and authority control is promoted.

**(c) Quality searching**

The location of specific publications is facilitated by the National Library's authority work. By using a single, unique authority heading on the NNAF, the user is assisted in precise retrieval of desired information. Duplication is also avoided, which is another advantage. However, this situation now needs to be revisited in the national and international context, with greater emphasis on international usage in respect of authority control.

**3.1.3 Standards and guidelines**

The principles of Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) state that authority control should be done according to international standards and guidelines. Authority control staff at the National Library utilise relevant standards and guidelines to ensure that every entry that is selected as an access point for the catalogue (*SANB*) is *unique and does not conflict with any other entry that is already in the catalogue or may be included at a later date.* While various bibliographic tools are used, including various UBCIM and LC sources, the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules 2nd rev. ed. (AACR2R) is discussed below with specific reference to its use by the National Library.

AACR2R is the basic tool for consistent establishment and maintenance of name headings in the *SANB*. Chapters 22, 23, 24 and 26 are the basis for the formulation of name headings. In addition, the National Library applies optional AACR2 rules 22.17A and 22.18 in the establishment of personal names. These deal with an additional date and fuller names as qualifiers to name headings. It is also worth mentioning that AACR2R 22.5D1 deals specifically with prefixed Afrikaans surnames such as de Klerk, du Toit, le Roux, van der Walt, van Heerden, von Wielligh.

The reasons for applying the optional AACR2R 22.17A and 22.18 are twofold: Firstly, an author is uniquely and undoubtedly identified as a specific person, not to be confused with another. And, secondly, the authority controller has available at that specific point in time distinctive information regarding the author to be included in the authority record. This prevents the necessity of revisiting the same information at a later stage, should it become evident that qualifying information is needed to distinguish between persons with nearly identical names. The application of these optional rules

presently hampers South African participation at international level

The AACR2R-based process of establishment entails the following: The title page serves as the chief source of information. The choice of name is the most frequent name that the author uses. This name – which could be a pseudonym, surname and initials, or a surname and full forenames – is determined according to the name that appears most frequently on the title pages of his/her works. Authority control staff are in a very good position to determine this, because the National Library is also the legal deposit library compiling the national bibliography of the country. If only initials are printed in conjunction with the surname, the full names are given. If initials are used partly, *SANB* gives the full forenames whenever this information is available, and not just where a conflict exists (the AACR2R option is applied). The National Library adds dates to names whenever these are available, and not only to qualify a name in order to resolve conflict. Explanatory notes are added, and sources are cited. Applicable references are made.

Certain authority control problems identified at international level – i.a. change of name, variations in appearance of names on chief sources, the same name for various, or different, personal authors - are also experienced by the National Library. These problems have serious implications for accessing and retrieving precise information in South African cooperative catalogues.

#### 3.1.4 Other verifying sources

These include author forms (see par. 3.1.1), biographical dictionaries, encyclopaedias, the Internet, countries' name authority files, bibliographies, and bibliographic databases.

### 3.2 National level – South African libraries and SABINET Online

The NNAF is available as a file in-house to the National Library. Headings for authoritative South African forms are nationally and internationally available in electronic *SANB* records as they appear on the separate *SANB* database, and the cooperative *SACat* database on the SABINET Online system. Headings are also included in the printed *SANB*.

The South African authority control scene presently seems to be fragmented and needs to accomplish greater uniformity regarding standardised forms of names. Although the National Library is the NBA of South Africa, the *SANB* is compiled with South Africa's legal deposit publications as core, and an NNAF is maintained with reliable authority records created according to international guidelines and standards, the National Library lacks a generally available and compatible authority file which librarians can access to retrieve the complete authority record for utilisation in their local authority files. Reasons for its unavailability are the following:

- absence of an authority record format in SAMARC, used by the South African libraries until the late 1990s
- the existing NNAF vests in the Dobis system, currently incompatible with other systems
- conversion programmes need to be in place to translate authority data in D(obis)-MARC into SAMARC and /or MARC 21 – D-MARC deviates slightly from SAMARC
- limited financial and human resources at the National Library has delayed the production of South African bibliographic and authority data negatively.

Furthermore, the National Library does not have a nationally agreed policy to control the form of names according to applicable standards and principles. A national authority control policy for South Africa should be developed, as well as training for all South African staff involved in authority work.

Authority controllers are supported by training manuals and guidelines, but no coordinated training at national level takes place. Not much attention is given to authority control as a topic in the

undergraduate curriculum, and not all authority controllers operate on the same level of experience. This leads to simple errors such as spelling mistakes and to serious misinterpretations of AACR2R.

South African librarians consult AACR2R, but do not always interpret the rules consistently. While the title serves as chief source of information, in some instances the name is accepted in the form in which it appears on the first received publication. Where the same name for different authors appear, either dates or full forenames will be used as qualifiers. In other cases, neither dates nor full forenames will be used while sometimes the full forenames will be added if they are generally known. In other instances, the name will be standardised according to surname and initials, without full forenames and/or dates. Regarding variant names, research is only undertaken once a variation of the name appears.

Most South African librarians verify their authority records, but verification is done at different levels: from cataloguers in training, to very difficult personal names and all corporate names, to authority control working groups and regular authority control audits.

South African authority forms are researched by the NBA, a costly and time-consuming activity. However, many authority controllers research a name authority form for a second time, instead of making efficient use of the research already done by the National Library.

But, a decision to adopt MARC 21 in 1997 significantly affected the direction of bibliographic control in South Africa. A MAchine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) seminar, "A future MARC format for Southern African libraries" was held in Pretoria. Participants listed 23 reasons why another MARC format should be considered for the South African circumstances. One reason deals with authority files:

> Problems encountered with authority files and quality control in South Africa: " ... In a letter to the chairperson of the South African Institute for Library and Information Science's (SAILIS) Committee for Bibliographic Control, problems concerning the lack of a local format for authority records was mentioned. It was indicated that most local-based SAMARC computer systems do provide for authority records. The authority records, however, do not comply with all MARC format requirements with regard to the exchange of information. A USMARC authority format as well as a UNIMARC/Authorities does exist."

The outcome of this seminar was a vote by the library and information sector in favour of USMARC, now MARC 21. Gradually, South African libraries changed from SAMARC to MARC 21, led by the consortia libraries in the tertiary sector and followed by SABINET Online, a commercial company acting, among others, as a bibliographic utility for South African resource sharing, as OCLC does world-wide. Although a large number of South African libraries still operate on SAMARC-based systems, they are gradually being replaced by Innopac Interfaces Inc., Aleph, InMagic/DB/Text and other MARC 21 systems. Most of the consortia – GAELIC, CALICO, FRELICO – and SABINET Online have completed their conversion processes. In order to adapt to the changing library environment, the authority control staff of certain institutions underwent training in view of becoming NACO independent members, to enable South Africa to submit reliable South African authority forms to the *LCNAF*.

To facilitate resource-sharing activities – " ... Cost-effective cooperation requires the use of a common exchange format to support common understanding and processing of the records received." – and because of the impact of Universal Bibliographic Control – " ... each country should be responsible for recording its own national imprints, producing bibliographic records in a standardised computer format so that they can be exchanged with those of other countries" – which was also given as a reason at the Seminar to move over to ARC 21, SABINET Online signed a contract with OCLC. In turn, South African libraries, including the National Library, signed a resource-sharing contract with SABINET Online. Original cataloguing of the country's imprints are now possible on an international level (*WorldCat*), and bibliographic records could be exported to individual libraries internationally,

nationally and locally. Through Passport-for-Windows (PfW), reliable South African authority records, either newly created or updated, are contributed to *LCNAF* (also available on OCLC's *WorldCat* database) and provide accurate and consistent headings to be used in bibliographic records by any cataloguer world-wide.

However, it is at this point that a conflict in relation with authority records arises. A good mixture of authority records originated in the *SANB NNAF, LCNAF,* and libraries' local authority files will be found in *SACat*'s authority files. The reason for this is that South African authority records, although established according to international standards and principles, were created for different catalogues: *WorldCat, SACat* and *SANB*. Up to 1997 and even beyond, *SANB* is a widely consulted source by South African libraries for authoritative headings in bibliographic records, as Snyman proved in her 1999 thesis on standardised South African names in bibliographic databases. Even the consortia are not in agreement with each other about giving preference to the *LCNAF* form when a conflict arises with the *SANB* form of name. Although the authority control policy of the most influential consortium was recently adjusted to give preference to the *LCNAF* form where conflict arises, others are not convinced that the *LCNAF* forms for South African names are always accurately established and would prefer to use the *SANB* forms in such cases. Nor is it an easy task to adjust existing South African authors in *LCNAF*, because:

- in the past, South African librarians had to convince American librarians of the common use of a South African name, of which they were unaware
- once an authority record is coded "AACR2" or "AACR2 compatible" it cannot be completed up to the level needed for the South African circumstances (e. g., addition of dates and other qualifiers), and can only be changed when a documented error is detected in the authority record, or when the addition is specified in the rules.

The result of these limitations is that less complete South African authority records are distributed world-wide to individual library catalogues via the *LCNAF* at a time when more complete information is available in the *SANB NNAF*. Furthermore, duplicate forms of the same South African name are available world-wide, as the printed and electronic *SANB* records containing the more complete names are distributed internationally and thus the consistent use of only one form of name in all catalogues is prevented. It is therefore vital that opportunities should be investigated to improve the consistent use of a single form of name.

One such opportunity to be seized to reduce conflict would be the development of staff conversant with MARC 21 (1999), OCLC's Passport-for-Windows (1999) and NACO procedures (2000). The National Library's authority control staff have had NACO training, became independent in June 2001 for submitting accurate South African authority records to *LCNAF* , and contribute in this way to the depth of a bibliographic control tool used world-wide. Through participation on international level, South Africa can contribute and distribute its authority records from the highest level to national level, ending in a local/in-house library catalogue.

### 3.3 International level – International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and its UBCIM core program

The National Library functions within the context of international principles and national legislation, the latter already being dealt with.

#### (a) UBCIM, NBA and the responsibility for national authors

The National Library derives its authority on national bibliographic control activities, of which authority control is one, from the ICNBS, a conference of UBCIM, the latter being a core programme of IFLA. The ICNBS stated that the following three components form the basis for adequate national

bibliographic control:

- legal deposit
- national bibliography
- NBA.

The activities relating to these components are mostly carried out by national bibliographic agencies, which are in the majority of cases the national libraries of countries. Such is the case in South Africa.

With respect to authority control, the National Library as NBA applies ICNBS recommendations to the South African context. The National Library supports therefore the comment and recommendation of Françoise Bourdon who stated:

> "Given that the national bibliographic agencies have the responsibility for establishing the authority records for their national authors, it would be to their advantage, when establishing records for foreign authors, to use the records in the authority file created by the appropriate bibliographic agency, where this exists. It is therefore the question of cooperation between authority files run by the national bibliographic agency which is under consideration here."

Her conclusion is that whenever a NBA has to include a foreign author in its national bibliography it should take the authority heading established by the appropriate NBA into consideration.

However, the IFLA UBCIM Working Group on Minimal Level Authority Records (MLAR) and ISADN also recommend:

> "While this Working Group was created under the auspices of UBCIM, we have come to realize that the IFLA goal of UBC by way of requiring everyone to use the same form for headings globally is not practical. There are reasons to use the form of names familiar to our own users, in scripts they can read and in forms they most likely would look for in their library catalogue or national bibliography. Therefore, this Working Group recognizes the importance of allowing the preservation of national or rule-based differences in authorized forms for headings to be used in national bibliographies and library catalogues that best meet the language and cultural needs of the particular institution's users."

The National Library acknowledges that an authority heading may not always be reusable at international level in the given form, takes note of ongoing work by the Working Group on MLAR and ISADN, FRANAR and has followed discussions on possible models for authority control. Nevertheless, it would be in favour of solutions that promote the principle of consistent use of authorities as established by NBAs for their national authors on international level.

Secondly, the National Library has at its disposal reliable reference authority data for its national authors and would prefer to be the central source for supplying the applicable and correct information to a foreign library, that needs to establish an authority record for a South African author. This would obviate repeated research and the risk of an erroneous authority record.

Thirdly, channels for the distribution/availability of reliable South African authority records already exist in the form of headings in *SANB* bibliographic records. Expansion is now possible because the National Library's authority control staff have gained their NACO independence and South African authority records are directly contributed to the *LCNAF*. Once converted successfully to the MARC 21 based-Innopac Millennium system, authority data will be available on the National Library's web site. The National Library is also strongly in favour of the proposals of the Working Group on MLAR:

> "To facilitate international sharing of authority data, we propose that each NBA makes its authority files available over the Internet within two or three years, using the IFLA home page

to register current information about what is available and what restrictions are in force. Such a system would permit multi-file searching to be conducted across a range of authority files or a single national authority file as desired. Within this context, retrieval would be greatly enhanced by the use of some numbering mechanism to link the associated authority records created by the various agencies, either the local system record numbers or an ISADN for the entity, as was suggested by IFLA in the 1970s.

"We further propose that access to the shared authority files would be 'Read Only'. Searching and retrieval would be on a Read-Only basis. We propose that access to files for consultation or downloading (copy/paste, etc.) should prohibit editing of any part of the original record by others than the home NBA. Any arrangement for cooperative record maintenance would be by separate agreement between cooperating institutions, and is a matter quite outside this report. This is both a practical approach to file maintenance and ensures that authority for editing data is retained by the NBA, which can be expected to have the most expertise in the local format, cataloguing code, and user expectations."

### 3.4 Interaction between content and context

Reflecting on personal name authority control, it is worth mentioning that over a period of time, interaction between the content of the South African authority record and the context within which it should foster control has become evident. A change in one necessitates adjustment of the other. Since the former State Library's original inclusion in the IFLA International Office for UBC's *A survey of authority files and authority control systems for catalogue headings* (December 1977), the National Library's authority control staff have gained their NACO independent status for personal name authority control. The National Library is now in a position to submit reliable South African personal name authority records to the *LCNAF* – one of a few international resources. The benefit of immediate availability of reliable South African name authority records in an international context implies the discontinuation of the SAMARC format of the 1970s – which was indeed replaced by MARC 21 in 1999. The National Library's in-house Dobis-Libis system which also dates from the 1970s, is currently being replaced by the MARC 21-based *Innopac Millennium* system.

On the other hand, serious limitations regarding the content of South African name authority records prevail. As mentioned above, additions in the form of dates to uniquely identify a South African person are now excluded in the established name authority form if a record for this person is already available in the *LCNAF*. However, as the case is with other national bibliographic agencies, the LC is willing to accommodate the *SANB* form of name in a field in the name authority record, equivalent to the field for the main entry for this particular personal author.

A second limitation arises from the fact that the South African NBA, which has more publications available from which to establish the authoritative name for a South African author, may therefore use different rules from those used by another cataloguing institution with fewer publications at its disposal, resulting in different forms of name for a specific author. Both these limitations regarding content of South African name authority headings create hindrances in the consistent use of a single name for a specific author.

## 4 Rethinking access control

The purpose of authority control is to establish a single, standardised form of name, whereby an author is uniquely identified, and his/her works are precisely accessible/retrievable. As indicated above, the National Library should perhaps investigate the possibilities of "access control" as opposed

to "authority control". The concept of access control is internationally under discussion, because authority records are shared in the international community, and the use of a single form for an author conflicts with the principle of trying to provide cataloguing records that serve the needs of the library user – that is, providing bibliographic information in the language of the patrons and following the conventions of that language as used in that country or community.

An access record is defined as the next generation of the authority record and can be viewed as a "super authority record". Access control records would be linked both to bibliographic records to collate all manifestations of a work, and to other related access control records to collate related works. One of the key concepts is removing both the label and the notion of "authority". The access control record has evolved from the current authority record and links the variant forms of a name without declaring anyone as the "authorised" form. A central concept is that a library or user should be allowed to choose a preferred form of name or to have displayed a default heading, especially in the case of every national-level access control record. This concept is radical and contradicts the second part of AACR2, which is devoted to rules for how to construct authorised forms of names and titles. This new approach would impact on the local online system design and indexing, and it would require the most substantive development work.

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